

THE 100,000 REHABILITANTS OF 1963

by

S. Schor, A. Scolnick, A. Peters

HY1710  
S



**M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY  
AMERICAN PRINTING  
HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**



HV1710

5

C.1

copy one

# The 110,000 Rehabilitants of 1963

SIGMUND SCHOR, ADOLPH SCOLNICK, AND ALTHEA PETERS

The information presented in this article was extracted from a detailed report prepared by the Division of Statistics and Studies of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration concerning the characteristics of persons rehabilitated during the past 5 years in the public program of vocational rehabilitation.

The data on these pages are highlights about the 110,136 persons rehabilitated in fiscal year 1963 and indicate some trends of the past 5 years. The full report, which covers all clients rehabilitated in all State programs for fiscal years 1959 through 1963, shows State-by-State information for some of their characteristics.

In addition, VRA has in unpublished form all of the information shown in the published report by State. In some instances, greater detail is available in unpublished form than appears in the published version.

The published report is available from the Division of Statistics and Studies at VRA. State rehabilitation agencies will, of course, have in their files this same information relating to their particular agency. In many instances, the States have even more information concerning the characteristics of persons they rehabilitated.

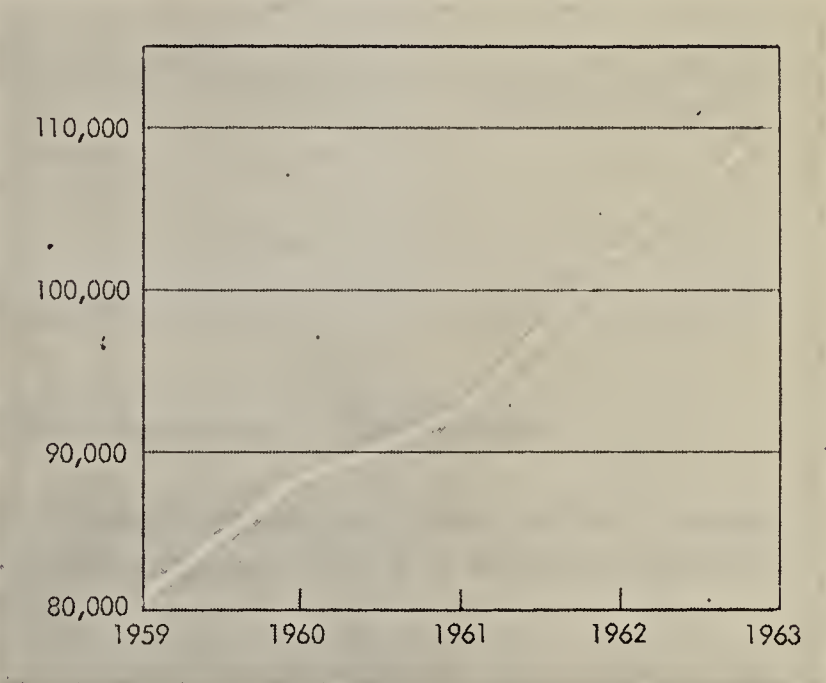
## Major Disabilities

More than a third of these 110,000 persons had amputations or other orthopedic handicaps.

	Percent
Amputations.....	8
Orthopedic deformities or impairments.....	29
Blind and other visual impairments.....	10
Deaf and other hearing impairments.....	6
Speech.....	1
Psychosis and psychoneurosis.....	7
Mental retardation.....	5
Epilepsy.....	2
Cardiac diseases.....	5
Tuberculosis, pulmonary.....	5
All other major disabling conditions.....	22

## Progress in Rehabilitation

110,136 clients were rehabilitated during fiscal year 1963. This is more than one-third again as many as were rehabilitated 5 years ago.



## Primary Source of Support

Before rehabilitation, more than half of the clients depended on families and friends for the major part of their support. About 1 in 7 relied principally on public funds for support.

	Percent
Families and friends.....	53
Current earnings.....	17
Public assistance.....	11
Tax-supported public institutions.....	4
OASI disability and unemployment insurance benefits..	8
Other.....	7

MR. SCHOR is chief of VRA's Division of Statistics and Studies, MR. SCOLNICK is a statistician, and MRS. PETERS is an assistant statistician in the Division.



## Where the Clients Came From

Physicians, hospitals, and sanatoria referred almost one-third of all clients. The number referred through educational institutions has increased by almost three-fourths over the past 5 years.

	Percent
Physicians .....	16
Hospitals and sanatoria .....	13
Welfare agencies .....	12
Self-referred .....	12
Educational institutions .....	12
Other referral sources .....	35

## Mobility

The rehabilitation process enabled 4 out of 5 clients, formerly completely housebound, to conduct activity outside the home. About half of those who had been able to get around outside the home with assistance became independent of the help of another person.

### Completely housebound:

At acceptance .....	2,543
At closure .....	461

### Mobile with assistance:

At acceptance .....	3,465
At closure .....	1,774

## Age, Sex, and Race

Rehabilitants are getting somewhat younger. The median age of rehabilitants was 34 years in 1963 as compared to a median age of 36 five years ago. In 1959, 17% of those rehabilitated were under 20—in 1963, 20% were in this category. Only about 1 in 10 was 55 years old or over in 1963.

Six out of ten rehabilitants were males. One in five was nonwhite.

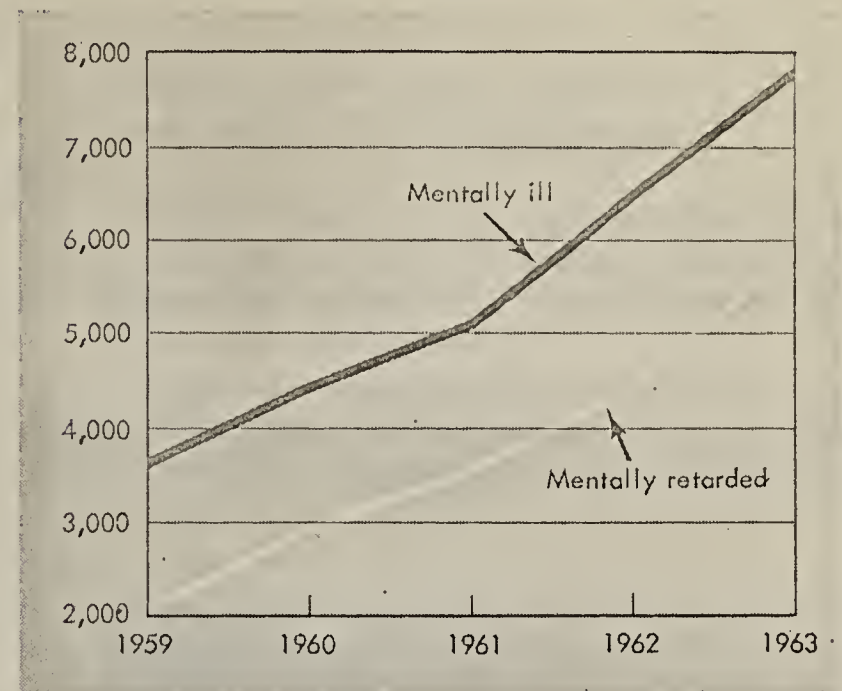
	Percent
Less than 20 years .....	20
20-34 years .....	30
35-44 years .....	21
45-54 years .....	18
55-64 years .....	9
65 years and over .....	2

## Mental Illness and Mental Retardation

There has been an increased emphasis over the past 5 years on mental and emotional incapacity.

The number of rehabilitated clients whose major disabling condition was psychosis or psychoneurosis more than doubled in the past 5 years—from 3,663 to 7,827.

The number of mentally retarded who were rehabilitated nearly tripled—from 2,016 to 5,909.



## Public Assistance Recipients

The rehabilitation program took 6 out of 10 clients off public assistance rolls, at a saving of over \$10 million.

At acceptance .....	13%
At closure .....	5%
Annual cost of public assistance:	
At acceptance .....	\$16.5 million
At closure .....	\$5.6 million

## Number of Dependents

Nearly half of all rehabilitants had one or more dependents. Considering these dependents, the rehabilitation process in 1963 had a direct impact on well over 200,000 persons.

	Percent
No dependents .....	53
1 to 3 dependents .....	31
4 or more dependents .....	16
	23





## Types of Jobs After Rehabilitation

One in three blind persons was placed in a sheltered workshop or became a homemaker or unpaid family worker. This is twice the rate for the other disability groups. However, twice as many blind persons were placed in professional, semiprofessional, and managerial positions as persons with other disabilities.

Types of jobs	Blind	All other disability groups
	Percent	Percent
All rehabilitants.....	100	100
Agricultural.....	7	7
Clerical and sales.....	12	16
Homemaker or unpaid family worker.....	22	14
Professional.....	7	4
Semiprofessional, managerial and official.....	11	4
Semiskilled.....	7	12
Service.....	11	21
Sheltered workshops.....	11	3
Skilled.....	7	12
Unskilled.....	5	7

## Costs of Various Types of Rehabilitation Services

Services	Average direct cost per client	Total direct cost to agency
		Million
Training and training materials...	\$480	\$18.0
Maintenance and transportation..	405	9.7
Tools, equipment and licenses....	300	1.5
Hospital and convalescent care...	264	6.0
Prosthetic appliances.....	172	4.0
Surgery and treatment.....	165	5.7
Diagnosis.....	43	3.9
Other.....	297	.4

Training and training materials cost the agencies an average of \$480 per client and accounted for \$18

million, or one-third of the total cost (\$49.2 million) to the agencies for all services.

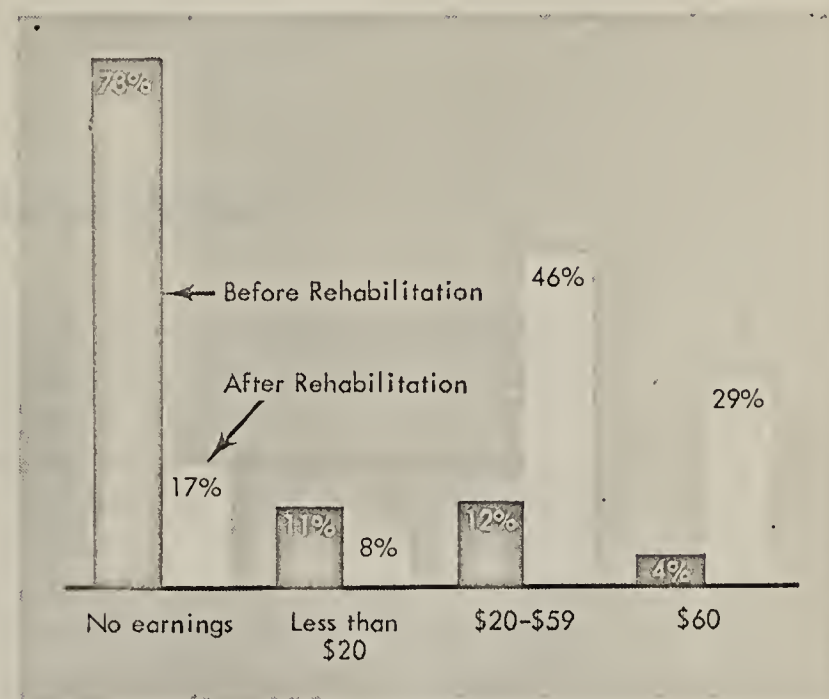
Although the least costly service per client was \$43 for diagnostic procedures, the 91,074 clients who received this service required an expenditure of almost \$4 million.

(Costs of services furnished and paid for by other organizations or by the client are not included here. Also excluded are costs to the agency for administration, guidance, counseling, and placement.)

## Weekly Earnings Before (B) and After (A) Rehabilitation

While 73 percent of all clients reported no earnings at acceptance, only 17 percent—primarily homemakers and unpaid family workers—were nonwage-earners after rehabilitation.

Estimated annual income tax payments resulting from these increased earnings rose from approximately \$4 million at acceptance to almost \$20 million at closure.



## Rehabilitation Costs for Selected Disabilities

The direct cost of case services averaged \$478 per client rehabilitated. There were no dramatic differences in the costs of treating the various disability groups.

(Costs of services furnished and paid for by other organizations or by the client are not included here. Also excluded are costs to the agency for administration, guidance, counseling, and placement.)





Disability	Average direct cost per client	Total direct cost to agency
		Million
Blind or visual impairment.....	\$568	\$6.3
Cardiac.....	553	2.6
Orthopedic impairments.....	544	16.2
Amputation or absence of extremities.....	479	4.2
Epilepsy.....	488	1.0
Mental retardation or deficiency.	453	2.5
Hearing and speech disabilities...	411	3.3
Psychosis and psychoneurosis...	409	2.5
All other disabling conditions....	394	10.6

## Work Status

At closure, 74% of all rehabilitants were in the competitive labor market. The remainder were mostly

the self-employed and the homemaker or unpaid family worker.

	Percent
Competitive labor market.....	74
Self-employed .....	7
Homemakers and unpaid family workers.....	15
State agency-managed business enterprises for the severely disabled .....	1
Sheltered workshops.....	3

## Duration of the Rehabilitation Process

Once accepted for service, about one-third of the clients were rehabilitated in a half year or less. On the average, the rehabilitation process took 11 months.

	Percent
½ year or less.....	32
1 year or less.....	57
1½ years or less.....	72
3 years or less.....	91

## Workload in the State Agencies

The 90 vocational rehabilitation agencies now in the Federal-State program—including both general agencies and those agencies for the blind which are separately operated—served a total of 368,696 disabled persons during fiscal year 1963. Also:

326,917 cases were referred for service  
160,611 were accepted for rehabilitation  
110,136 were successfully rehabilitated  
37,944 were closed not rehabilitated

As of the end of the fiscal year, there were 220,616 persons in various stages of rehabilitation. Of these, 42,341 were either ready for employment and awaiting

placement or were already in employment but awaiting a determination of suitable adjustment to the job.

Among the general agencies, each counselor handled an average of 163 clients during the year. Of these 163 clients, 49 were successfully rehabilitated. Seventeen cases were closed not rehabilitated. Among the reasons for failure to achieve rehabilitation were: Services were declined or not needed, migration of clients, illness, aggravated disability, or personal factors.

Among the agencies for the blind, there were 56 cases served per counselor. Of these, 15 were rehabilitated and 5 cases were closed not rehabilitated.



HV1710

c.1

S

Schor, S.; Scolnick, A.; Peters, A.  
The 110,000 rehabilitants of 1963.

Date Due			

**Bno-Dart**

INDUSTRIES

Newark 14 N.J. • Los Angeles 25, Calif.  
Toronto 2B, Ontario Made in U. S. A.



